

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application with claims 5-6 new and claims 2 and 4 objected to; reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected as unpatentable over Gersho in view of Iyengar. The Examiner pointed to three encoder (decoders) of Gersho Fig.4A (5) with Gersho's transition encoder (decoder) corresponding to the claimed weakly-voiced encoding (decoding) plus cited Iyengar for pitch prediction with waveform encoding (decoding).

Applicants reply that Gersho's transition frames apparently differ from applicants' weakly-voiced frames, and so Gersho's transition frame encoder (decoder) explicitly avoids pitch prediction. Indeed, in the cited Gersho column 26, lines 20-37, the less-preferred alternative in the latter portion (lines 31-37) seems most pertinent, and for transition frames sometimes use pitch prediction. This is contrary to the claimed weakly-voiced frames always using pitch prediction.

Formal drawings are enclosed. Applicants propose to replace the flow diagram of current Fig.3 with a flow diagram corresponding to the steps on pages 13-17; current Fig.3 appears to be just a part of a frame classification method.

Respectfully submitted,

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